

KWADRU' NRU I

IT-TBERIK TAD-DJAR

NHAR IT-TNEJN TA' WARA' L-GHID IL-KBIR JIBDA IT-TBERIK TAD-DJAR U L-FAMILJA. KULHADD INADDAF ID-DAR MINN FUQ S-ISFEL, BIEK BIEK TIDHER FL-AHJAR TAGHHA. IL-PATRI JEW QASSIS, SA QABEL IL-KONCILJU, KIEN JIDHOL FILL-KMAMAR KOLLHA, IZDA ISSA BIZ-ZEJJED IBIEREK U JGHID IT-TALB FL-INTRATA. FTIT QABEL JGHADDI IS-SAGRISTAN IQASSAM L-ILMA MBIEREK, U XI DRABI KIEN IKUN HEMM UKOLL SIEHBU JQASSAM BICCIET TAX-XEMGHA TAT-TNIEBRI. LILL-ABBATI LI JKUN MAL-PATRI ITUH XI BICCA FLUS GO L-ILMA MBIEREK. LILL-PATRI FL-ANTIK KIENU JAGHTUH XI TIGIEGA JEW XI PRODOTT TAR-RABA. GHAT-TBERIK KIENU JLESTU L-BIEB TA' BARRA MIFTUH, U JISTENNEW SAKEMM JASAL GHANDHOM.

PAINTING No. I

THE BLESSING OF HOUSES

ON EASTER MONDAY STARTS THE BLESSING OF HOUSES AND FAMILIES. THE HOUSE IS SCROUPLOUSLY CLEANED TO RECEIVE GOD'S BLESSING. BEFORE THE RECENT ECUMENICAL COUNCIL CHANGES, THE PRIEST USED TO BLESS ALL ROOMS OF THE HOUSE, BUT RECENTLY PRAYERS AND BLESSING ARE RESTRICTED TO THE HALL. THE SEXTON GOES ROUND DISTRIBUTING HOLY WATER, AND HIS COMPANION FORMERLY ALSO PROVIDED PIECES OF BROWN CANDLE LEFT OVER FROM HOLY WEEK CEREMONIES. THE PRIEST USED FORMERLY TO BE GIVEN A CHICKEN OR FARM PRODUCE AND THE ALTAR BOY IS GIVEN A COIN DROPPED IN THE HOLY WATER HE CARRIES FOR THE PRIEST.

KWADRU NRU 2

IL-HGEJJEG TA' SAN GWANN

IL-KAVALLIERI TA' SAN GWANN KIENU JICCELEBRAW IL-FESTA TAL-QADDIS TAGHHOM BILL-KBIR. FOST AFFARIJIET OHRAJN KIENU WKOLL IKEBBSU HGEJJEG GOL-KRIETEL, U JQABBDUHOM LEJLET IL-FESTA TA' SAN GWANN BATTISTA, LI KIENET TKUN FL-24 TA' GUNJU. GHALHEKK, FIT-23 FILGHAXIJA IL-GRAN MASTRU KIEN JIXGHEL IL-HGEJJEG QUDDIEM IL-PALAZZ, U IL-LINGWA TA' FRANZA KIENU JQABBDU TLIETA OHRA HDEJN L-INFERMERIJA. IN-NIES KIENU JIGBRU L-HATAB U L-HGEJJEG KIENU JINXTEGLU F'BOSTA TOROQ. IC-CERIMONJA GHANDHA GHERUQ PĀGANI, BILLI L-FESTA TAHBAT MALMIGJA TAS-SAJF. L-IRGIJEL KIENU JAQBZU L-HGEJJEG, U OHRAJN JAHARQU PUPU JEW TRAJBU FIN-NAR

PAINTING No. 2

SAINT JOHN'S BONFIRES

THE KNIGHTS OF SAINT JOHN USED TO CELEBRATE THEIR PATRON'S FEAST ON A GRAND SCALE, AND AMONG OTHER THINGS USED TO LIGHT BONFIRES. THE GRAND MASTER INITIATED THE FIRES IN THE PALACE SQUARE AT DUSK, ON 23RD JUNE, THE EVE OF THE FEAST, AND THE FRENCH KNIGHTS LIT THREE NEAR THE INFIRMERY. ALTHOUGH LINKED WITH ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, THE CEREMONY ORIGINATES FROM PAGAN ACTIVITIES ON THE ARRIVAL OF SUMMER, WHICH TAKE PLACE, OR USED TO TAKE PLACE IN MOST PARTS OF THE WORLD. BONFIRES WERE ALSO KEPT GOING IN MANY STREETS, WHERE PEOPLE PROVIDED FIREWOOD. MEN LEAPT OVER THE FLAMES OR BURNT STRAW DUMMIES, SYMBOLISING EVIL SPIRITS.

KWADRU' NRU 3

TAL-MITHNA TAR-RIH'

BIEX JITHNU' QAMHI, XGH'IR U' PRODOTTI OHRAJN, IL-MALTIN KIENU' JMORRU' GHAND TAL-MITHNA. L-EWWEL IMTIEHEN KIENU' DAWK TAL-MIEXI, FEJN KIEN IKUN HEMM BAGHAL JEW HMAR GO REMISSA, GHAJNEJX MGHAMMD'IN, IDAWWAR IL-GEBLA TAL-MITHNA. WARA WARA BDEW JUZAW L-IMTIEHEN TAR-RIH'. META IR-RIH' KIEN TAJJEB, TAL-MITHNA KIEN ISEJJAH' LIN-NIES TAR-RAHAL BILLI JDOQQ IL-BRONJA, BEBBUXU KBIR BILL-PONTA MKISSRA, JEW KIEN IMUR HUWA STESS IDUR BILL-HMAR, JIGBOR L-IXKEJJER, GWIELAQ U' CRIENEN MINN GHAND IN-NIES, U' WARA LI JITHAN IQASSAMHOM LURA.

PAINTING No.3

THE MILLER

THE GRINDING OF CEREALS AND GRAINS IN THE MALTESE ISLANDS, FORMERLY WAS UNDERTAKEN BY THE MILLER WHO USED A BLINDFOLDED ASS OR MULE TO TURN ROUND THE GRINDSTONE SET UP IN A STABLE. LATER ON, WINDMILLS WERE INTRODUCED. WHEN THE WIND WAS SUITABLE, THE MILLER USED TO CALL HIS CUSTOMERS BY BLOWING THROUGH A TRUMPET SHELL, OR ELSE WENT ROUND WITH HIS CART TO COLLECT THE GRAIN FOR GRINDING AND WHEN HE COMPLETED HIS WORK RETURNED THE CONTAINERS WITH THE FLOUR.

KWADRU NPU 4

L-EWWEL TAS-SENA

FL-EWWEL TAS-SENA KIEN HEMM DRAWWIET FILL-BLIET U FIL-IRHULA. FILL-BLIET XI DAQQAQA U GHANNEJA KIENU JMORRU KMIENU QUDDIEM IL-BIEB TAS-SINJURI, LI KIENU JOHORGU JTUHOM XI HAGA. BIEB JAWGURAW SENA GDIDA LILL XI HADD, GIE LI KIENU JGHAMLU L-GIR FUQ L-GHATBA TAL-BIEB. IT-TFAL KIENU JIGGERREW MAT-TOROQ U JGHIDULEK "IS-SENA T-TAJBA", U KIENU JISTENNEW LI TAGHTIHM XI SITT HABBIET. KIENET DRAWWA UKOLL LI JIEKLU L-HUT FL-EWWEL TAS-SENA. GHALL-EWWEL MA KIENUX JAGHTU RIGALI FILL-MILIED, IZDA KIENU JAGHTU L-ISTRINA, FL-EWWEL TAS-SENA.

PAINTING No.4

NEW YEAR CUSTOMS

THERE USED TO BE NEW YEAR CUSTOMS IN TOWNS AND VILLAGES. IN THE TOWNS OR CITY THE CUSTOMS WERE RATHER DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF THE VILLAGES. MUSICIANS USED TO PLAY SOME MUSIC AND SING IN FRONT OF THE DOORS OF WELL TO DO FAMILIES TO WISH THEM A HAPPY NEW YEAR, RECEIVING SOME COIND IN RETURN. IT WAS ALSO A CUSTOM TO SPREAD SOME LIME ON THE DOORSTEP OF HOUSEHOLDS TO WISH THEM A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR. MANY USED TO EAT FISH ON NEW YEAR'S DAY, AND FISH HAWKERS WENT ROUND THE STREETS WITH TRAYS OF FISH. MANY CHILDREN USED TO GO ROUND THE STREETS WISHING A NEW YEAR TO THOSE THEY MEET, EXPECTING A COIN IN RETURN.

KWADRU NRU 5

IL-PASSJU, IL-KENUR

FOST IL-LOGHOB TAL-BNIET HEMM DIK TAL-PASSJU. F'DIN IL-LOGHBA JPINGU MA' L-ART XI LINJI LI JIFFURMAW SPAZJI KWADRI, TRIJANGULARI U NOFS TOND. DIN IL-LOGHBA TIRRAPPREZENTA ID-DISA' XHUR-TAT-TQALA, BIN-NUMRU DISA' IMZAQQAQ IL-BARRA, FILL-KWADRU JIDHER UKOLL IL-KENUR GO BIEB TA' REMISSA, GHAX GEWWA JAGHMEL ID-DUHHAN. TIDHER UKOLL IL-GRADA FILL-BIEB TA' WAHDA MID-DJAR. DIN IL-GRADA KIENET THALLI BARRA ANIMALI LI JKUNU JIGRU FIT-TRIQ, MINBARRA LI ZZOMM IL-BIEB MIFTUHI FUQ L-ANTIORTA. MINBARRA KLIEB U QTATES, FIT-TOROQ KIEN IKUN HEMM BOSTA MOGHOZ, TIGIEG, HNIEZER, L-AKTAR FL-IRHULA. FIT-TRIQ DEJEM KONT TARA XI PATRI JEW QASSIS, GHAX QABEL KULL FAMILJA KIEN IKOLLHA LILL XI HADD RELIGJUZ.

PAINTING No.5

STONE STOVE AND HOP SCOTCH

ONE OF THE FAVOURITE GAMES PLAYED BY GIRLS, MORE COMMONLY PLAYED IN THE PAST, IS HOP-SCOTCH. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE MANY TYPES OF HOP-SCOTCH PLAYED ALL OVER EUROPE, THE ONE ILLUSTRATED REPRESENTS THE NINE MONTHS OF PREGNANCY, AND EVEN THE SKETCH SCRAWLED ON THE GROUND WITH A PIECE OF BURNT FIREWOOD, HAS NINE SPACES, WITH THE NINTH BEING MORE ROUNDED, BULGING AT THE END. THE LOCALLY MADE STONE STOVE, 'KENUR', IS IN THE DOORWAY TO MINIMISE SMOKE INDOORS. A HOUSE SHOWS ALSO A WOODEN GATE, 'GRADA' WHICH HELPED KEEP THE DOOR OPEN AND KEEP OUT ANIMALS.

KWADRU Nru 6

PROCESSJONI TA' KORPUS

ID-DEVOZZJONI LEJN IS-SAGRAMENT KIENET HADET XEJRA AKTAR GHALL-AHJAR, WARA LI GIE MONS. P. DUZINA F'MALTA, GHALL-VIZTA TIEGHU FL-1575. HUWA WAQQAF FRATELLANZI TAS-SSMU SAGRAMENT F'HAFNA PARROCCI, U' TISTA' TGHID LI IL-PARROCCI KOLLHA, WAQFU DIN IL-FRATELLANZA. IL-FRATELLI TAS-SAGRAMENT JILBSU KUNFRATIJA BAJDA, MUZZETTA HAMRA, U' KURDUN ABJAD JEW AHMAR, FLIMKIEN MA' KURUNA TAR-RUZARJU. IL-FRATELLI JAKKUMPANJAW F'KULL PROCESSJONI TAL-PARROCCA, IZDA IL-FESTA TA' KORPUS, GHALIHOM ISSIR AKTAR SOLENNI. MINBARRA ID-DEVOZZJONI JIET LEJN IS-SAGRAMENT, IL-FRATELLI JGHAMLU BOSTA XOGHOL TA' KARITA' U' JIEHDU HSIEB IL-BZONNI JIET SPIRITWALI TA' XULXIN. JIEHDU HSIEB UKOLL IL-VIJATKU TAL-MORDA.

PAINTING No.6

CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION

THE DEVOTION TOWARDS THE BLESSED SACRAMENT WAS STANDARDISED IN 1575, BY THE APOSTOLIC DELEGATE MONS. P. DUZINA, DURING HIS VISIT TO MALTA. HE SET UP SEVERAL CONFRATERNITIES OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT IN SEVERAL PARISHES, AND WHEN HE LEFT OTHERS WERE ESTABLISHED IN ALL OTHER PARISHES. THE MEMBERS OF THIS CONFRATERNITY WEAR A WHITE GARB AND RED SHOULDER-PIECE, BESIDES A RED OR WHITE WAIST CORD AND ROSARY BEADS. APART FROM ATTENDING ALL CHURCH FUNCTIONS, THE FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI IS CELEBRATED WITH SPECIAL POMP.

KWADRU NRU 7

LI JSINN, BIZZILLA, DEVOZZJONI

FIT-TRIQ KONT ISSIB KOLLOX. DAWK LI KELLHOM BZONN ISINNU SKIEKEN, IMQASSIJET, U GHODOD OHRA, KIENU JISTENNEW LIL-DAK LI JSINN. KELLU KARRETTA BIR-ROTA LI TITHADDEM BILL-PEDALA, WAQT LI JSINN, BL-ILMA JQATTAR MINN XI BOTT. F'BIEB TA' DAR TIDHER MARA TAHDEM IL-BIZZILLA, XOGHOL LI QABEL KIEN AKTAR MIFRUX FID-DJAR MALTIN, BIT-TRAJBU JISTRIEH MAL-HAJT U G-COMBINI MDENDLIN. QABEL, IT-TFAL KIENU JMORRU MBUSU ID IL-QASSIS JEW IL-PATRI, META KIENU JARAWH FIT-TRIQ. HUWA KIEN ITIHOM XI SANTA JEW DOMNA. IL-HASIRA TAL-QASAB, LI TIDHER IMDENDLA QUDDIEM BIEB, KIENET PURTIERA EFFICJENTI, L-AKTAR FIS-SAJF, FACCATA TAX-XEMX, FL-ISTESS H'IN TGHADDI L-ARJA.

PAINTING No. 7

STREET SHARPENER, LACE MAKING, DEVOTION

THE STREET SHARPENER CAME ROUND REGULARLY, AND PEOPLE BROUGHT OUT THEIR KNIVES, SCISSORS AND OTHER BLADED TOOLS FOR SHARPENING. HE WORKED THE GRINDSTONE BY MEANS OF A PEDAL, WHILST WATER TRICKLED DOWN ON THE BLADE FROM A TIN CAN. LACE MAKING WAS MORE POPULAR IN ALL HOUSEHOLDS OF THE PAST, WHERE THE CUSHION WAS RESTED AGAINST THE WALL, AND THE BOBBINS DANGLED AROUND. LITTLE CHILDREN USED TO SHOW RESPECT TO PRIESTS AND OTHER RELIGIOUS IN THE STREET, BY GOING OVER TO KISS THEIR HAND, AND WERE USUALLY GIVEN A HOLY PICTURE OR EFFIGY IN RETURN. THE LOCALLY-MADE CANE CURTAIN, 'HASIRA', WAS VERY CONVENIENT AGAINST THE SUN, IN SUMMER, IN FRONT OF THE MAIN DOOR.

KWADRU Nru 8

IL-QARINZA

FL-AHHAR JUM TAS--SENA, FL-IRHULA KIENU JSIRU ATTIVITAJIET BIEX JISSIMBOLIZZAW IL-HRUG TAL-QADIMA U D-DHUL TAL-GDIDA. KIENU JOHORGU GHANNEJA FILGHAXIJA, IDOQQU U JKANTAW QUDDIEM DJAR HBIEBHOM, JAWGURAW SENA GDIDA KOLLHA RISQ. GIE LI KIENU JGORRU MAGHHOM PAR PUP I JEW TRAJBUJIET TAT-TIBEN, LI JFISSRU S-SENA QA D IMA U GDIDA. WIEBED MILL GRUPP KIEN JAGHMEL IL-GIR FUQ L-GHATBA TAL-BIEBIEN, SINJAL TA' RISQ. GHAL-NOFS IL-LEJL KIENU JIEQFU JIEKLU GHAND XI HABIB, U F'DARU JKOMPLU IC-CERIMONJA, FEJN WIEHED MINNHOM JIMTEDD FL-ART U 'IS-SULTAN' FOSTHOM 'JOFFRIH' LIL-TAD-DAR, GHAL-SENA B'IEZLA.

PAINTING No.8

THE 'QARINZA'

ON THE LAST DAY OF THE YEAR, IN THE VILLAGES THERE USED TO BE THE CUSTOM OF HERALDING THE NEW YEAR, AND LEAVING THE PAST, BY MEANS OF THE 'QARINZA'. A GROUP OF SINGERS PLAYED SONGS IN FRONT OF HOMES AND IN THE STREET, WISHING A NEW YEAR TO ALL THE VILLAGE. SOMETIMES THEY CARRIED A PAIR OF STRAW FIGURES, SYMBOLISING THE OLD AND THE NEW YEARS. ON THE APPROACH OF MIDNIGHT, THEY USUALLY STOPPED TO DINE AT A FRIEND'S HOUSE, AND WITHIN, THEY CONTINUED THE CEREMONY OF THE 'QARINZA', WITH ONE OF THEM, 'THE SULTAN', OFFERED ONE OF HIS GROUP, WHO LAY ON THE GROUND, AS A 'PRESENT' TO THE HOUSEHOLD FOR A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR. ANOTHER MAN SPREAD LIME ON THE DOORSTEP, FOR LUCK.



